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Message Text

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62
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00

OMB-01 RSR-01 /105 W
---------- 110777
O 042208 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4370

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1357

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BDIS, PINT, UY, US
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER' S CONCERN OVER POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
AMCO REPUBLIC INTERNATIONAL- GOU- MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
DISPUTE.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE LATE THIS
AFTERNOON (MAY 4) TO EXPRESS WHAT HE TERMED HIS GREAT CONCERN
OVER
INFORMATION HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR LUISI
RE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SUIT BY AMCO REPUBLIC INTERNATIONAL IN
CALIFORNIA COURT AGAINST GOU MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS.

2. ACCORDING TO FONMIN, AMBASSADOR LUISI EXPECTS THAT COURT WILL
SHORTLY RULE IN FAVOR OF AMCO IN THIS DISPUTE AND PERMIT COMPANY
TO EMBARGO URUGUAYAN ASSETS IN U. S.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED THAT I INFORM THE DEPARTMENT ON
AN URGENT BASIS OF " GRAVE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES" WHICH
WOULD RESULT FROM ANY SUCH EMBARGO ACTION. WITHOUT REQUESTING
ANY SPECIFIC ACTION, MINISTER OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT SOME STEPS CAN
BE UNDERTAKEN TO AVOID SUCH AN EVENTUALITY WHICH HE SAID
WOULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF OUR COMMON ENEMIES.

4. I, OF COURSE, MADE NO COMMITTMENT TO BLANCO IN THIS REGARD,
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OTHER THAN TO ASSURE HIM THAT I WOULD INFORM THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY OF HIS CONCERN. I ALSO PROMISED TO PUT APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN TOUCH WITH MINSTRY' S LEGAL ADVISOR ON MAY 7 FOR REVIEW OF SITUATION AS WE UNDERSTAND IT TO ASCERTAIN WHAT JOINT ACTION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE ARE OBVIOUSLY IN NO POSITION TO SUGGEST WHAT IF ANYTING CAN BE DONE IN THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, WE HOPE THAT DOMESTIC REACTION HERE TO EMBARGO ACTION BY AMCO WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN WHATEVER RESPONSE WE CAN MAKE TO FOREIGN MINISTER' S VALID EXPRESSION OF DEEP CONCERN. SHOULD LOCAL ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO US AND TO GOU SEIZE ON IMPENDING COURT ACTION THEY WILL HAVE A FIELD DAY IN AN AREA WHERE NATIONALIST SENSIBILITIES CAN MOST EASILY BE AROUSED.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinjw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: PINT, US, UY, BDIS, PINT
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